



Support Free Trade with Central America

Vote YES on the Central American Free Trade Agreement

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the 700,000 members of FreedomWorks nationwide, I urge you to advance free trade and protect democracy in Latin America by supporting the "Central American Free Trade Agreement," or CAFTA.

Trade with Central America is already vital to our economy and growing. Indeed, two-way trade with the CAFTA nations reached \$33 billion last year, making them our 12th largest trading partner in the world. Even though 80 percent of Central American exports to the United States are duty-free, many of these nations still have trade barriers that restrict the importation of U.S. goods. CAFTA rectifies this by opening these markets to American businesses, leading to job creation and a stronger economy.

No doubt, this measure will benefit American consumers. Freer trade will allow Americans to reap the benefits of competition, which include more choices, better products, and lower prices. Moreover, lower trade barriers allow nations to specialize, making the global economy more efficient while providing every country with more goods.

This free trade agreement will also enhance security and promote democracy abroad. Every nation entering CAFTA is democratic, but many of them are only fledgling democracies. This proposal will spur economic growth, giving these newly elected governments the stability they need to create a lasting democratic tradition. With Hugo Chavez's rule over Venezuela and Marxist instability in Bolivia, CAFTA gives Central American democracies the support they need to resist a new wave of socialism and dictatorship.

Don't be fooled by protectionist rhetoric: free trade has always benefited the American economy. One example is during the prosperous 1990s, when the United States passed the North American Free Trade Agreement and also allowed China to enter into the world economy. These lower trade barriers undoubtedly played a role in record low unemployment and unparalleled economic growth we experienced during that decade.

Free trade will help the American economy and promote the spread of democracy. The "Central American Free Trade Agreement" is a step in the right direction because it lowers the barriers to trade. FreedomWorks will count a YES vote for CAFTA as a key vote for the FreedomWorks Economic Scorecard. This scorecard is used to determine eligibility for the Jefferson Award, which recognizes those legislators with voting records that support economic freedom.

Sincerely,

Dick Arney
Co-Chairman, FreedomWorks